



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
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<http://www.blm.gov>



IN REPLY REFER TO:
2823, 2824, 2810
(UT-936)

January 12, 2006

Dear Interested Public:

Subject: Public Review and Request for Comments of five Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessments

In April, 2004, the Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated an effort to bring the agency's land use plans into greater compliance with national guidance and direction for addressing wildland fire and hazardous fuel reduction on public lands. The Utah BLM State Office led the effort in bringing the agency's Utah land use plans into compliance by completing one Environmental Assessment (EA) which amended 17 of the BLM's land use plans across the state. The Amendment was signed by the State Director on September 26, 2005, and can be viewed online at www.ut.blm.gov/fireplanning. The Utah BLM appreciates all those who participated in this land use planning process.

Now that the amendments are completed, and based on the decisions that they provide, we are continuing to update the five program-specific Fire Management Plans which address, in greater detail, on-the-ground fire management actions, considerations, and priorities across the state. At this time, the Utah BLM invites your review and comments on the Environmental Assessments prepared for each of the five Fire Management Plans (FMPs) which direct management for BLM fire Support Centers located in Cedar City, Moab, Vernal, Salt Lake City, and Richfield.

Each of the five EAs analyzes a no action alternative and the agency's proposed alternative. For your convenience, these documents are available for viewing on our website at www.ut.blm.gov/fireplanning. Copies of the EAs will also be available for review at each of the BLM's Field Offices in Utah, as well as at the management office of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Mail, fax, or email comments to the respective Support Center by February 17, 2006.

Please use the following contact information per Utah BLM Fire Support Center.

Cedar City (Southern Utah Support Area): To make a comment on the Southern Utah Support Area FMP EA, or to request a CD or paper copy, contact Pete Wilkins, BLM Cedar City Field Office, 176 East D.L. Sargent Drive, Cedar City, UT 84720; phone (435) 865-3053; email Pete_Wilkins@blm.gov; or fax, Attn: Pete Wilkins (435) 865-3058. This FMP EA addresses fire management in the Cedar City, St. George and Kanab Field Offices, as well as in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Moab: To make a comment on the Moab Fire District FMP EA, or to request a CD or paper copy, contact Kate Juenger, Fire Planner, BLM Moab Field Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532; phone (435) 259-2195; email Kate_Juenger@blm.gov; or fax, Attn: Kate Juenger (435) 250-2106. This FMP EA addresses fire management in the Moab, Monticello and Price Field Offices.

Richfield: To make a comment on the Richfield FMP EA, or to request a CD or paper copy, contact Linda Chappell, BLM Richfield Field Office, 150 East 900 North, Richfield, UT 84701; phone (435) 896-1595; email Linda_Chappell@fs.fed.us; or fax, Attn: Linda Chappell (435) 896-1550. This FMP EA addresses fire management in the Richfield and Fillmore Field Offices.

Salt Lake: To make a comment on the Salt Lake FMP EA, or to request a CD or paper copy, contact Ambur Mathews, Fire Planner, BLM Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South 2300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84119; phone (801) 977-4335; email Ambur_Mathews@blm.gov; or fax, Attn: Ambur Mathews (801) 977-4397. This FMP EA addresses fire management in the Salt Lake Field Office only.

Vernal: To make a comment on the Vernal FMP EA, or to request a CD or paper copy, contact Steve Strong, BLM Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, UT 84078; phone (435) 781-4472; email Steve_Strong@blm.gov; or fax, Attn: Steve Strong (435) 781-4410. This FMP EA addresses fire management in the Vernal Field Office only.

Please be aware that individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Anonymous comments may be included in the public record.

The BLM is committed to involving the public in decision-making processes. We welcome your input in these fire management planning efforts.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gene Terland

Gene Terland
Acting State Director